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16th October, 1967

Mrs. Mary Lasker
29 Beekman Place
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Mary,

Many thanks for your letter of September 14 from Paris. I assume by now you have returned to New York and I hope you feel well.

I have finished reading Clara Malraux' diary with great interest. Of course one's interest is divided between him and her. From the book he appears as an extremely narcissistic, cold and selfish person, ambitious and, indeed, very talented. I remember the time when I read his Human Condition, and how moved I was by it. It is an interesting thing that a person, if he is gifted and imaginative, can write movingly and even profoundly about the life of people, and yet remain the outsider who has no feeling or contact with them. Maybe all the feeling he has left has been transformed into writing about them, provided such a man has a gift of observation and for translating his observation into text. She is interesting too, intelligent and courageous.

She made one mistake - to hitch her life to a man who by his very nature had to remain aloof and who basically used her as a mother, admirer, and what not, but always "using". She is bitter, which is understandable, and yet one can see, as in so many lives, how her failure is due to her mistakes. And she seems to ^{think} know that the alternative was only to remain a bourgoise, or to become Malraux's wife. She forgets that her real chance would have been to be herself, to do something with her life and her gifts, to stand on her own feet, and not to wait until the ax fell and the admired man had no more use for her.

Of course one might suspect that her picture of Malraux is colored by her bitterness, although I would think it is basically honest, but when his own auto-

biography is published one will be able to judge that better. Have you ever met her or him?

Thanks for your suggestion that my friend, Dr. Millán, should go and see Dr. Rosenfeld. He did so when he was in New York, and Rosenfeld, who was suffering from a 'flu talked to him over the phone, about the matter of the Atromid. As I understand Dr. Millán, he said that unless his cholesterol level was above normal there was no reason to take Atromid, and it just happened that at the check-up in New York the level had come down more or less to normal. I was of course *also* interested for myself in this, and I would assume that Rosenfeld would say the same about me, since my cholesterol level is normal. In fact, I understand he said more or less this to Dr. Millán and suggested I come to see him when I am in New York.

In the meantime I read in the New York Times about a new discovery in which some medicine has been used which brought the cholesterol level down to that found in a new-born baby, I think something like 4%. The report says that the principle is quite different from all previously used medicines. I cut the article out because I wanted to send it to you, but right now I cannot find it. I will look for it and if I find it I shall enclose it, but most probably you have seen it anyway.

I am working on my book with great pleasure and feel very well. ~~When~~ you have time, drop me a line; I am always interested to know how you are and what you are doing.

Warmest wishes to you

E

Erich Fromm